

# Assemblymember Christine Kehoe



*Brings You News  
From Sacramento*

**January 16, 2004**



**Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Speaker Pro Tem**

## Working to protect victims of child molestation

Current law requires that a child molestation case must be filed within 10 years of the crime.

In 2003, the California Supreme Court ruled that a provision of a 1994 California law which lengthened the time charges of child sexual abuse may be filed could not be applied retroactively.

That means that if the abuse occurred at age 6, for example, a case must be filed by the time the victim is age 16 or the crime would go unpunished. However, victims of child abuse are often too frightened to come forward and pursue criminal charges against the offender until they are more emotionally and psychologically mature – many times, after the 10-year statute of limitations has passed.

Victims and law enforcement should be given as much time as necessary to pursue these heinous crimes against children. That's why I have authored AB 1667, which would extend California's statute of limitations for child molestation cases to allow for more time and assure that cases will go forward and victims can see their perpetrators brought to justice. This legislation would allow cases to be filed any time prior to the victim reaching 30 years of age.

Current law also allows a case to be filed beyond the normally-applicable statute of limitations if it is filed within one year of the victim's report to law enforcement, but only if there is corroborating evidence. This extended one-year period would continue to apply under this bill.

AB 1667 was approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee by a bipartisan unanimous vote. Information on this bill will be available at [www.leginfo.ca.gov/](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/).

## Fire Commission Meets in San Diego

In the aftermath of any disaster, there are lessons to be learned. Almost as quickly as the recent San Diego wildfires spread, so did the questions relating to response times, responsibilities, and available equipment.

In effort to do that, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission was established. Governor Schwarzenegger's Commission is examining fire-fighting efforts in California and holding meetings around Southern California to review the response to the October fires that burned 750,000 acres, killed 23 people and destroyed more than 3,500 homes in California. I am honored to have been asked to serve on the Commission.

The Commission will next meet in San Diego on Wednesday, January 21, 2004 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Paradise Point Resort Hotel Conference Center, Ballroom, 1404 Vacation Road. This is an opportunity for you to make your opinions, suggestions and experiences related to the fires heard. With the input of San Diego residents, fire officials, and other interested San Diegans, I am confident that this Commission will arrive at important findings and conclusions and make strong recommendations for improvements to California's fire fighting system.

For more information on the commission, contact me at [Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov)

**Newsletter continued on next page...**

Capitol Office  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Phone: (916) 319-2076 Fax: (916) 319-2176

E-mail: [Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov)

District Office  
1010 University Ave.,  
Ste. C-207  
San Diego, CA 92103

Phone: (619) 294-7600 Fax: (619) 294-2348

## Paying Tribute to our Veterans

Veterans have put themselves in harms way and made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve our country and the freedoms we all enjoy. It is fitting and appropriate that we honor their sacrifices and contributions. This is why I have authored AB 1520. It would create a commission that would be given the authority for the design, construction, dedication, and location selection of a Veterans Memorial. Funding for the Commission and the Memorial would come entirely from private contributions.

This commission would be made up of appointees of the Governor and the Legislature who would serve without pay.

AB 1520 was passed by the Assembly Committee on Veterans this week. To read the text of AB 1520 go to [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov) and search by author or bill number.

## Serra Mesa Resident is Volunteer of the Month

Jackie Ander, a Serra Mesa resident, is an active community member involved in the Serra Mesa Community Council.

Jackie cares about her neighborhood, and is willing to spend her free time helping her neighbors and working on important community projects.

The volunteer work she devotes herself to is valuable and vital to the progress of Serra Mesa.



Thanks Jackie, for all you do for Serra Mesa!

## Fifth Grade Essays Are In!

I'd like to extend a big thanks to all of the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students who participated in my district-wide Essay Contest. I received hundreds of essays, and deciding on winners proved very challenging! This year students wrote a persuasive letter to their school principal, the editor of the local newspaper, or their local Assemblymember (that's me!) regarding an issue that is important to them.

Winners will be announced at a 5<sup>th</sup> grade assembly on January 26 at 8:50 a.m. at Dana Middle School. There will prizes for all students who submitted an essay and grand prizes for the first, second, and third place winners. Thank you to Union 76 for sponsoring the prizes.

Winners will be announced in my next newsletter.

## Brochures Available

My office provides a variety of free brochures that can give you information on everything from state parks and energy saving tips to how to lobby the State Legislature. I also have information about protecting your privacy, including how to put your phone number on the national "do not call" list to stop unwanted calls from telemarketers.

Some of the brochures available are:

- California State Parks in San Diego County
- Flex Your Power Pocket Guide to Energy Needs
- How to Lobby the California State Legislature
- Stopping Telemarketing Calls

If you are interested in receiving any of these brochures, please email me at [Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov)

Capitol Office  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001  
Phone: (916) 319-2076 Fax: (916) 319-2176

E-mail: [Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov)

District Office  
1010 University Ave.,  
Ste. C-207  
San Diego, CA 92103  
Phone: (619) 294-7600 Fax: (619) 294-2348